

Mini-Studies on my Surname

for piano solo

Peter McKenzie Armstrong

1983, 2011

NOTE

Indexing our alphabet numerically in mod 12 and flagging the letters 'A-R-M-S-T-R-O-N-G' against this index, one sees each 3rd character as redundant and the unique members reduced to six,

A	R	S	T	O	N
0	5	6	7	2	1

with corresponding intervals

5 1 1 -5 -1 .

This interval series, however, when expanded by a factor of 5 and only slightly transposed, yields exactly the member indices just omitted,

10 11 4 9 8 3 .

Combining then the two series (with index 0 assigned to D#) as follows

D# G# A Bb F E C# D G C B F#

I have fashioned this movement briefly addressing several favorite pianistic concerns: memory, legato (via fingers &/or sustaining pedal), and the articulation of mirrors.

– PA

to Sara

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for Memory (♩ = 192)

(5 ♩'s = 48)

The first system of music for 'for Memory' is in 7/8 time. It features a treble and bass staff. The treble staff begins with a whole rest, followed by eighth notes and chords. The bass staff starts with a forte (f) dynamic and contains chords and eighth notes. The system concludes with a piano (p) dynamic and a 5/8 time signature change.

accelerando

... al ...

(5 ♩'s = 60)

The second system continues the piece, marked with an *accelerando* and *... al ...* instruction. It includes a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking. The time signature changes to 3/4. The system ends with a 3/4 time signature.

8va-----

(♩ = 144)

The third system is in 3/4 time, marked with a forte (f) dynamic. It includes an 8va (octave up) marking. The system concludes with a *riten. e dimin.* (ritardando and decrescendo) instruction and a 7/8 time signature change.

13 (♩.. = 40)

15ma-----

8va-----

The fourth system is in 7/8 time, marked with a pianissimo (pp) dynamic. It includes a 15ma (fifteenth measure rest) and 8va (octave up) marking. The system concludes with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic and a 12/8 time signature change.

for Legato (♩. = 152)

sfz

8vb-----

The fifth system is in 12/8 time, marked with a piano (p) dynamic. It includes a *tempo* marking and a *pedale simile ...* instruction. The system concludes with a 12/8 time signature and an 8vb (octave down) marking.

Connections,

mf

8vb

via fingers per 8th or pedal

crescendo

per beat, are to be so "even"

f

poco dimin.

that the sensation of pulse

is suspended.

p

sf

dimin.

pp

6/8 10/8

for Mirroring (5 ♩ 's = 66) (♩ = ♩) (♩ = ♩) (♩ = ♩) (♩ = ♩)

mf *decelerando*

6 (♩ = 200) *mp* tempo steady by the 8th
Pedal per chord, detaching each from the next, through bar 18.

10

15

19 (♩ = 54) *pp* *riten.* *riten.* *riten. e dimin.* *8va*

The musical score is written for piano and consists of five systems. The first system (measures 1-5) features a treble staff with rests and a bass staff with a continuous eighth-note pattern. The second system (measures 6-10) has a treble staff with complex chords and a bass staff with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The third system (measures 11-15) includes triplets in the bass staff and various chords in the treble. The fourth system (measures 16-18) continues the chordal texture in the treble and the eighth-note pattern in the bass. The fifth system (measures 19-23) begins with a piano introduction and includes trills and triplets, ending with a dynamic decrescendo and an 8va marking.

